

## Message Text

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O 072132Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMKG/AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

FOSIF ROTA IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON FOUR

COM THREE TWO MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168130

STUTTGART FOR ELG

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FOLLOWING REPEAT FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT 5852 DTG  
041310Z JUL 76 SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE CINCUSNAVEUR CINCUSAFE CINCUSAREUR

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5852

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO IMMEDIATE: AMMAN, ATHENS,  
DAMASCUS, LONDON, TEL AVIV, USUN, FOSIF ROTA  
SPAIN, DIA WASHDC

DEPT ALSO PASS INFO ROUTINE: ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, CAIRO,  
JIDDA, KUWAIT, PARIS, ROME, STUTTGART FOR ELG,  
TEHRAN, CIA WASHDC, COMSIXTHFLT, COMPHIBRON FOUR,  
COM/THREE TWO MAU, CTF XIX ZERO, CTF SIX ONE, CTF  
SIX TWO, CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO, FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA,

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 4: TELL ZAATAR BEING MOPPED UP:  
PALESTINIANS CONDEMN SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB STATES'  
INDIFFERENCE

REF: BEIRUT 5824

1. SUMMARY: TELL ZAATAR BATTLE STILL NOT COMPLETELY OVER, AS  
CHRISTIANS APPEAR CAREFUL TO AVOID ADVERSE PUBLICITY OF  
BLOODBATH AT END. INTENSIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES ALONG SECONDARY  
FRONTS IN BEIRUT AREA, BUT PALESTINIANS UNABLE RELIEVE BESIEGED  
CAMP, BLAMING ADVERSE SYRIAN ARTILLERY FIRE. FIGHTING  
ELSEWHERE IN BEIRUT AREA AND IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY  
INDECISIVE. AL DELEGATION CALLS ON PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST SIDE AS  
51ST CEASEFIRE FACES INTO OBLIVION. FATAH DEPUTY KHALAF  
BITTERLY DENOUNCES SYRIAN ROLE AND ARAB STATES' INDIFFERENCE TO  
FATE OF TELL ZAATAR, THREATENS END OF ATTEMPTS AT DIALOGUE AND  
REPRISALS AGAINST NUMEROUS ARAB REGIMES WHEN CAMP FALLS.  
LEBANESE SIDES HARDEN ATTITUDES. LARGE INTERNATIONAL CNONVOY  
DEPARTED BEIRUT FOR DAMASCUS EARLY JULY 4. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOLLOWING GROUND ACTION LULL OF SEVERAL HOURS, DURING WHICH  
SHELLING OF CAMP CONTINUED. CHRISTIANS AGAIN MOUNTED ASSAULTS  
ON TELL ZAATAR AND ARE NOW WITHIN CAMP PERIMETER. THOUGH  
ASSAULT NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL, MAJOR GROUND ACTION HAS  
CEASED. CHRISTIANS APPEAR STILL UNWILLING TAKE HEAVY  
CASUALTIES FINAL PUSH WOULD REQUIRE, BUT THEY ARE CLAIMING  
CAMP HAS FALLEN AND ANNOUNCE ENEMY WOUNDED WILL BE TURNED  
OVER TO RED CROSS ON JULY 5. IN TELL ZAATAR AN IMMENSE

FIRE, VISIBLE SEVERAL MILES, BEGAN AT MIDNIGHT JULY 3, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW CAUSE. COMBINED PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST ATTACK ON KAHALE WAS SIMULTANEOUS WITH ASSAULTS ON BSOUSS, BDEDOUN, HOUMAL AND ARAYA ALL IN SAME AREA. ALL ASSUALTS APPARENTLY UNSUCCESSFUL. PALESTINIANS HAVE ANGRILY DENOUNCED SYRIANS FOR ASSISTING CHRISTIANS IN SEVERAL AREAS BY SHELLING PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST FORCES, PARTICULARLY RELIEF FORCE AT MONTE VERDE SINT TO RELIEVE TALL ZAATAR. VIOLENT ARTILLERY EXCHANGES CONTINUE ALONG BEIRUT'S EAST/WEST DIVIDING LINE AND HEAVY BUT INDECISIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES AT CHWYAH/AIN EL-RUMMANEH AND AT HADETH/LAYLAKE.

3. ELSEWHERE, SYRIANS, HAVE STILL NOT COMPLETELY RETREATED FROM SIDON AREA AND SHELLED VESSEL ATTEMPTING ENTER PORT JULY 3. VESSEL SAID BY LEFTISTS TO BE CARRYING FLOUR, BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE LIBYANS OR OTHERS THINKING ABOUT BRINGING IN ARMS SHIPMENTS. IN BEKAA CITIES AND IN NORTH LEBANON, SYRIAN BLOCKADES AND FIGHTING CONTINUE. PALESTINIAN SOURCES CLAIM CLASHES WITH SYRIAN TROOPS INLAKKAR, AT HERMEL AND NEAR OUYOUN EL-SIMANE. HOWEVER, VIOLENCE IN FARAYA/OUYOUN EL-SIMANE AREA APPEARS REDUCED TO ARTILLERY EXCHANGES. VOICE OF LEBANONN(KATAEB) ANNOUNCED NEW DEGENERATION OF SITUATION IN NORTH LEBANON WITH BOMBARDMENTS IN AREAS OF RAS-NAHACHE, HAMAT, CHEKKA, ENFE AND AIN IKRINE.

4. DESPITE CEASEFIRE BREAKDOWN, AL DELEGATION CONTINUED EFFORTS WITH JULY 3 VISIT TO WEST BEIRUT BY HELICOPTER FROM DAMASCUS. SECGEN RIAD, TUNISIAN AND BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTERS, AS WELL AS DEPUTY SECGEN Kholi AND AL MILITARY FORCE CHIEF-OF-STAFF COL CHEDID, MET WITH PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST LEADERS AT PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BEFORE

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RETURN TO DAMASCUS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH SYRIANS. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE ARAB ARMY-CONTROLLED RADIO LEBANON. RIAD HAD ASKED FRANGIE AND GEMAYEL TO ALLOW AL FORCES INTO TELL ZAATAR AS OBSERVERS. WE HAVE NO WORD OF RESPONSE ALTHOUGH RIGHTISTS THEMSELVES MADE SIMILAR REQUEST TO AL DURING PAST WEEK. AL THREESOME INTENDS PROCEED TO CAIRO JULY 4, PERHAPS AFTER ANOTHER VISIT TO LEB TTU

5. FATAH NUMBER TWO SALAH KHALAF BROKE THROUGH THINLAYER OF CORIALITY REMAINING BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND DAMASCUS IN FIRST HIGH-LEVEL PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ATTACKING ASSAD PERSONNALY AS AUTHOR OF PLOT. KHALAF DESCRIBES MARONITE "KFOUR FRONT" AS ONLY A SYRIAN INSTRUMENT AND ATTACK ON TELL ZAATAR AS PART OF SYRIAN PLOT. "IF TELL ZAATAR IS TAKEN WE WILL ERASE THE WORDS CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE FROM OUR

DICTIONARY." KHALAF IMPLICATED REST OF ARAB WORLD AS WELL:  
"IF TELL ZAATAR FALLS, MANY ARAB REGIMES WILL FALL AS WELL".  
PALESTINIAN RELATIONS WITH ARABS, HE SAID, "WILL BE FUNCTION OF  
THEIR POSITIONS ON THE CAMP." KHALAF ALSO ACCUSES CH TO  
EETT

SZFR.#CHA

RBFL KASSIS OF HAVING ACCEPTED DIRECT MILITARY AID  
FROM ISRAEL, BUT SAYS PHALANGISTS HAVE TRIED AVOID THIS.  
PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT  
RIGHTISTS RECEIVING ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT, BUT PUBLIC  
STATEMENTS ON TOPIC HAVE BEEN AVOIDED UNTIL THIS PAST WEEK.  
PALESTINIANS SEEM TO BE SUGGESTING POINT OF NO RETURN HAS BEEN  
REACHED ON COOPERATING WITH LEBANESE RIGHT. Wafa REPORTS YASSIR  
ARAFAT ARRIVED BEIRUT 0300 JULY 4 LOCAL, BUT WE HAVE NO  
CONFIRMATION.

6. ON CHRISTIAN SIDE, HARDENED ATTITUDES ARE ALSO SURFACING.  
CHAMOUND MADE STATEMENT JULY 3 SAYING FRANGIE OUGHT NOT  
RESIGN BEFORE END OF HIS TERM AS PREMATURE DEPARTURE WOULD  
EXPOSE THE HIGHEST OFFICE TO ATTACK. STATEMENT IS MOST  
STRAIGHTFORWARD CHAMOUN INDICATION TO DATE THAT HE PUTS NO  
STOCK IN SARKIS AND ROUND TABLE. PIERRE GEMAYEL ISSUED  
JULY 3 DECLARATION WITH HIS OLD IDEA THAT PALESTINIANS OUGHT TO  
BE DIVIDED AMONG ARAB STATES NOW THAT THEY HAVE DEVIATED FROM  
THEIR NATIONAL OBJECTIVES. GUARDIANS OF THE CEDAR STATED FLATLY  
THAT CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIANS STATUS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS  
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CEASEFIRE CONDITION SINCE THEY CONSTITUTE ONLY "PARTIAL  
SOLUTION" OF PROBLEM.

7. ON OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, JUMBLATT REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD  
AL SEC GEN MAHMOUD RIAD THAT PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE  
"NATIONAL MOVEMENT" WILL NOT SIT AT ROUND TABLE SO LONG AS  
SINGLE SYRIAN SOLDIER REMAINS IN LEBANON. SAEB SALAM ISSUED  
STATEMENT ACCUSING FRANGIE OF DEALING WITH AL IN DUAL ROLES  
AS BOTH CHIEF OF STATE AND LEADER OF "FRONT OF KFOUR."

8. GERMAN-SPONSORED CONVOY OF SOME 80 VEHICLES LEFT BEIRUT  
EARLY JULY 4 FOR DAMASCUS. INCLUDED AMONG 280 PASSENGERS,  
MAINLY FOREIGNERS, WERE 30 AMCITS AND DEPENDENTS AND 29  
AID/AUB PARTICIPANTS, INTENDING ONWARD TRAVEL TO HOME STATES  
FROM DAMASCUS. SOME 90 AID/AUH STUDENTS REMAIN IN  
BEIRUT. EMBASSY HAS TAKEN POSITION OF URGING THEM TO LEAVE  
ON SAME BASIS AS OTHER PERSONS FOR WHOM WE ARE RESPONSIBLE.  
AUB CONTINUES TO FUNCTION ON LIMITED BASIS.  
SEELYE UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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